

The 13th

# MEUsletter



News for the MEU team -  
Marines, Sailors, family and friends

Vol. 3 Sept 03

[www.13meu.usmc.mil](http://www.13meu.usmc.mil)

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## Update from the Colonel's Desk

Family and Friends of the Fighting 13th,

Greetings from aboard USS Peleliu. We've been at sea about five weeks now, and everybody is settling well into individual routines, or what we call "battle rhythm."

Your Sailors and Marines are getting into the gym, taking college classes, doing professional military education, as well as doing their everyday jobs in an outstanding manner.

I want to let you know how pleased I've been with the first month of the deployment. After nine months of pre-deployment workups, the morale and performance has remained at the high levels I have grown used to from these war-fighters. They do themselves,

their families, and their Nation proud.

No matter what missions may come our way on this deployment, you have my word that we will do everything we can to get the word out back home about what it is your friends and family members are doing, whether it's through these newsletters, our website or our hotline. Information on the website and hotline can be found on page 11.

I know you're all anxious to read about your loved ones' doings, so I'll wrap up. Thanks again for your support of the 13th MEU, the Marine Corps, and the United States. Remember: Think 13!

Semper Fidelis,

Colonel Mike Regner

Commanding Officer, 13<sup>th</sup> MEU (SOC)



*Sgt. Garth Phoebus, intelligence analyst, plays TAPS on his coronet during the 9-11 Commemoration Ceremony aboard USS Peleliu Sept. 11.*

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## S-1 Administration

The S-1 section has been keeping busy! We want to welcome two new joins to our section. First, we have a new Administrative Chief, GySgt Albino Parra, originally from Deming, New Mexico. He joined us from the Group Personnel Administration Center (GPAC) as the



head of the deployed section; he has been a great asset to our section. We also joined LCpl Lisa Greeson, originally from Raytown, Mo. She is an administrative clerk who came to us for this deployment from I MEF Headquarters Group. So welcome GySgt Parra and LCpl Greeson.

GySgt Parra and LCpl Salazar have been busy conducting pay audits to ensure all our pay matters are being properly run by GPAC at Camp Pendleton. Current pay entitlements include Career Sea Pay and Family Separation Allowance, if applicable. Between working,

we've all been shooting our weapons. Some of us had to wait for our relays and were catching some zzzs...Cpl Rendon and LCpl Salazar.

On a fun note, we visited Hawaii and Singapore and the section had a wide variety of things they did. Cpl Rendon (Admin Clerk) enjoyed visiting her sister in Hawaii and getting to see her niece – first meeting. What a cutie! The rest of us soaked up the sun and relaxed. Of course, it wouldn't have been complete without visiting the Dole Pineapple Plantation. Did you know that it takes a time to grow just one pineapple? We didn't. In Singapore, Cpl Dehoyas and Cpl Boone (Disbursing Clerks), Cpl Merritt (TAD/Orders Clerk), and LCpl Negron (Legal Clerk) took a tour of Santosa Island. There they took a tour of an underground aquarium, rode on a sky tram, and visited a sideshow. I know what



*SgtMaj. Morin models the gifts his wife Ellen sent during a surprise birthday party Sept. 11.*

you're thinking, "Side show?" Well, in front of the aquarium, there was a sideshow that had an albino boa constrictor. Yikes – unless you like snakes. Looks like it scared Cpl Merritt too. Some of the rest of the section enjoyed eating at their favorites restaurants like the Hard Rock Café and Hooters and shopping until they dropped. LCpl Mosley, our



*LCpl. Greeson, above left, and Cpl. Rendon are ready to sling some lead on the flight deck with their M-16s during a Command Element familiarization fire.*



other TAD/Orders Clerk, was instrumental enroute to Singapore. We had over a dozen sets of travel arrangements, orders, plane tickets, and lodging requirements that he worked out. Good job and keep up the hard work, LCpl Mosley. Cpl Rendon assisted in the many revisions of our Letters of Instruction for our liberty ports. We had to ensure careful supervision so that no “extra” unauthorized paragraphs were snuck in. Sgt Ruiz (Postal Chief) and Sgt Ragazzino (Admin NCO) ensured that our mail was received, sorted, and delivered. Keep the care packages coming.

Last but not least, we had three birthdays: SgtMaj Morin, Sgt



*LCpl. Mosley and Cpl. Flaucher (combat comedians) pose on the flight deck in the Pacific sun surrounded by the deadly tools of their trade.*

Ruiz and LCpl Negron. Happy Birthday, Marines. In closing, we think of them often. friends and let them know that we want to say “hi” to our family and



*Cpl. Merritt finds a buddy on libo in Singapore.*

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## Chaplain's Corner

Greetings to you all from what my monks back home call our “floating monastery.” I smile when they say that, because there are similarities—we work, eat, sleep, and relax and even pray together in a routine. But of course we get around the world slightly more than most monks! We are well into our 2<sup>nd</sup> month now and things are rolling along pretty well.

While in Hawaii, we organized a volunteer project wherein a dozen Marines did some heavy groundwork at the Carmelite Monastery of nuns. It was fun to see the Marines’ eyeballs as they entered the cloister and met a couple of the tiny old nuns. Most of them had never met a nun, let alone get inside a cloister. They worked and sweat like horses in the very humid weather. The nuns were very appreciative and spread out a wonderful lunch for us.

In Singapore over 80 Marines and Sailors visited a home for the severely mentally and physically disabled. Also present was a Navy touring band from Hawaii that played jazz and dance tunes. This was a COMREL like they had never experienced—not one where we built with wood and stone, but one in which the simple touch of another human was the building block for interaction. It was difficult for those for whom this was a first time encounter with severely disabled, but

about a quarter of the Marines gathered up courage and freely mingled with the residents. It didn’t take long and some brave souls, (on both the Marines’ and residents’ sides!), started dancing with each other and letting loose. It was inspiring and touching to see faces light up with incredibly joyful expressions, faces that were previously hiding and uneasy. They will remember the 13<sup>th</sup> MEU’s visit for a long time!

We are, of course, worshipping God weekly, with Protestant, Jewish, LDS and Catholic services every weekend. I cross-deck quite a bit to the Germantown and Ogden to meet and counsel people, and to offer Mass and the sacraments for the Catholics on those ships.

There are many on ship searching for God, and many hands helping them to find him. One of the young Marines on the Peleliu, LCpl Cunningham, is a trained lay leader, and he leads a group weekly in a Protestant Bible study. The group is excited and growing. The LDS lay leader, Capt. Durham, weekly leads a Home Evening that has also been growing. For the Catholic community, we’ve begun an RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation) program on ship. In this group of 25, people study and pray to improve their relationship with God and better understand the Catholic church, with an eye towards possibly joining the church next Easter or receiving various sacraments.

RP2 Duong and I help out in running the Uniting Through

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Reading program, and possibly by now some of you are receiving video tapes of your spouses reading books for your children. The sign-up for the taping sessions is always full. It is a *great* way for parents to stay connected with their children!

Several generous relatives before our departure from San Diego sent me money for M & M’s, and I lugged 300 pounds’ worth onto the ship. As I daily walk around the ship visiting work and berthing spaces I am trying to be judicious in passing them out, so that they will last longer. It is amazing how quickly sugar-coated peanuts brighten the faces of those at work. I daresay that some of the many people who come into my office for counseling might also have the ulterior motive of getting some more M & Ms!

Mail has arrived today and many received letters and packages already. Keep them coming. Nothing brings smiles to their faces like something from home. Keep us in your prayers, and know that we are daily praying for you as well.

Peace and God’s blessings to you all!

Fr. Nielson  
13<sup>th</sup> MEU Chaplain

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## Di\$bur\$sing

Marines of the 13th MEU (SOC) have been steadily busy ensuring that Marines are provided with a continuous source of pay support and disbursing needs. The disbursing office consists of 1st Lt. Puckett (Disbursing Officer), SSgt. Lathrop (Disbursing Chief), Cpl. Dehoyos (Disbursing Clerk), and Cpl. Boone (Disbursing Clerk).

After several weeks at sea, the Marines were set ashore for liberty call in Pearl Harbor, Hi. Enjoying things from Waikiki Beach to Honolulu. Anything from visiting the USS ARIZONA Memorial to The Punchbowl could be done while still having time for evening entertainment. Marines of the disbursing office enjoyed their liberty with some shopping and even a dip in the ocean on the North Shore.

Several weeks after waving goodbye to Hawaii, the USS PELELIU arrived in Singapore for some well-deserved liberty. Orchard Street seemed to be the main focus of the night life, while other Marines took tours of the island or indulged in some libation.

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A typical day in the life of the disbursing office is generally routine. Exercise goes three times a week (or more depending on if the Marine would like to partake in some extra physical training on their own). The workday goes from 0730 until 1600. Matters such as Travel Claims and Military Pay are worked here as well as government payments to businesses and individuals alike that have provided a service to the Marine Corps.

Cpl. Dehoyos and Cpl. Boone are taking advantage of college courses offered by Central Texas College with classes like American History, State and Federal Government (taught by the Disbursing Officer 1st Lt. Puckett) and Business Management.

As we look to the future we are anticipating some fun times ahead and hopefully lots of Training!!

Semper Fi'nance,  
Disbursing Office  
13<sup>th</sup> MEU



*L-R: Cpl. Merritt, LCpl. Negron, Cpl. Boone and Cpl. Dehoyos on the town in Singapore.*



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## S-2 Intelligence

### I SALUTE YOU!

Good day to all that read this. I would like to write a few words that express my outward joy in the things that I have seen so far during this deployment. Since checking into this command I have been pleasantly pleased with everyone around me. I would like to take an opportunity however to recognize several people that have inspired me to keep faith in the world, corps, unit, and family we are all a part of. I would like to address them separately but not separate from the

goals that they have achieved together. They range from groups to individuals and all hold a special place in my heart. Every Marine and Sailor aboard this collection of ships deserves



*L-R, Winnie Pigott, Mary Regner, Melanie Cloutier and Brie Nutt at the BLT Picnic.*

recognition for their specific contributions and hardships they have overcome. I would of course be out of place if I attempted to take your time to name all of them. So first I will deliver a blanket salute to every service member joining me on this adventure into harms way.

The first of these individuals that deserve special praise in the eyes of leadership, are the Non Commissioned Officers that make the day-to-day checks and balances of this organization happen. They perform their duties many times in a thankless and sometimes unrewarding atmosphere, with no

expectation of recognition. This is what sets them apart from the common man. They are leaders of Marines. They come in all shapes and sizes. They all have strengths and weaknesses. They all have different personal goals. Collectively they are the glue of this brotherhood/sisterhood we live in. NCO's I Salute You.

The second group of people, who have made, me and the others around me, find strength and drive to go on, is the MEU Key Volunteer Network. Never in the fourteen years of my Marine Corps career,

have I been witness to a support structure on the home front like this one. The Spouses, Loved one's, Friends and Families that comprise this organization of stability have gone far beyond any expectation I could ever dream of. I am shocked on a daily basis at the planning, execution, and results of these important peoples actions. I am proud to be the husband of a member of the Key Volunteer Network. I am so at ease that there is such a solid base of support and concern for our families at home. Ladies and gentlemen of the 13<sup>th</sup> MEU Key Volunteer Network I sleep easier at

night and feel more love in my heart because of your care for my family. I Salute You.

The next group of people I would like to address in this letter of appreciation is the Marines and Sailors of the ESG1 Joint Intelligence Center. I have not yet witnessed, in the 10 years in the Intelligence Community, a more synergistic; mission focused, and well disciplined knowledge base, than what I have been given in this team. Every second of the day, I am impressed and taken aback by the dedication that this team displays. Even under a new found level of political confusion and mission balance, under the spearheading of the new ESG concept. This, by far is a feat to be recognized. The ability to become fused as an all-encompassing intelligence support center for several levels of command is uncanny. The blood, the sweat, the long hours, the never ending requirements, and the separation from many of the luxuries missed, only drives this crew to accomplish the goal of our great leaders. Flawless execution, "Know what I'm saying Gents!!!" To the Marines



*Members of the Color Guard during the 9-11 Commemoration Ceremony*

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and Sailors of the ESG Intelligence Team, I Salute You.

Last but not least I would enjoy a moment to recognize an individual Marine that has made great strides and overcome many more hardships than most of us ever care to endure. I would like to recognize my Senior Intelligence Analyst, Sergeant Garth C. Phoebus. Sgt Phoebus has been down a very rough road as of recent, and will continue for many months to come. Those of you who are close to this man may know or are partially privy to some of the things that I refer to. Of note, Sgt Phoebus' recent selfless dedication to this command



*ISI Frecks, USS Peleliu, and Cpl. Beebe stand ready to repel boarders.*



*ESG-1 crew at POW/MIA Ceremony Sept. 19*

on two separate occasions was apparent to all who were present. Under an “eleventh hour” time constraint, the MEU Staff was scrambling to find a musician within the command to play taps and represent the command as the Command Element Bugler, for the ESG September Eleventh Commemoration Ceremony. After querying the entire command for people with any talent what so ever with a trumpet, Sgt Phoebus volunteered the night before. Having not played a trumpet in over 10 years, he performed flawlessly in front of several hundred Marines, Sailors, and distinguished guests on the Fight deck of the USS Peleliu. He was again chosen to represent the command with his musical talents during the commands Prisoner of War / Missing in Action Ceremony. Again in front of a multitude of his followers, leaders, and peers, Sgt Phoebus represented his command flawlessly. This is a perfect example of performing outside the normal scope of one's duties. This is a trait to which all Marines hold dear and should cherish. For your exemplary performance, regardless of your claims and concerns of “Stage Fright”, Sgt Phoebus, I Salute You.

In closing I would like to repeat my wish to recognize everyone that I work with and love. But as you all know time will not permit. And these venues are meant to point out special spaces in time, when only a little time permits. Thank you for taking that valuable commodity and spending it, reading my words. I Salute You!

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## S-3 Operations

Hello from the Marines of the S-3 section. This is our first of many newsletters that we will be sending back to our family and friends; well I think Gy McCabe has a friend or two? As you know we left San Diego on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August, 2003 and since then we spent our first week at sea going through man-overboard drills and just getting used to shipboard life. We also had the opportunity to have our first LFOC cinema at sea. LCpl Morin being the junior Marine in the shop was given the honor of picking out the movie- “Dazed and Confused.”



*SSgt.s Rojas, Brooks and Mendoza in Singapore*



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## S-4 Logistics/Supply/ Embark/HQ Com- mandant

The month of September was a month of hard work and adjustment to life on ship for the entire S-4 shop. After a pleasant stop in Hawaii at the end of August, there was much work to be done coordinating support for our upcoming port call in Singapore and planning for the many exercises and operations in which we will find ourselves involved.

Most of September was spent underway as the Marines and Sailors fell into their daily routines.

Our Headquarters Section headed by Major Wolford and Capt Williams quickly settled into the functions necessary to manage the MEU's Logistics mission. MSgt Pickens, our Logistics Chief, established and validated our request procedures to expedite the support provided to our subordinate units. He also managed the overall day-to-day operations of the entire S-4 shop. His right hand men are Sgt's Fulford, Cerca, and Childs who provide 24 hours support to all of the rapid requests submitted to our office. Our Ammunition Chief, SSgt Douglas, has the massive tasking to manage all the ammunition used in peace and war time missions and has been diligently working to ensure we have what the MEU needs to train and fight. Our Maintenance Manage-

ment Chief, Sgt Ettson, is the key to ensuring that everything that shoots, moves or communicates is in good working order. Our Armorer, the ever quiet LCpl Kong quickly got the Command Element armory up to speed and has one of the best readiness ratings in the MEU.



*Maj. Wolford, Capt. Williams in the TACLOG*

Our Motivating Supply Section Headed By Capt East was very busy developing the budget and fiscal plan for our deployment as well as responding to daily financial

requirements. While Capt East was forward deployed planning future exercises, SSgt Miller and SSgt Lopez, planned and executed the logistics support plans for both our Hawaii and Singapore port visits. Additionally, they are continuously planning for future requirements in

order to assist the MEU commander in his financial and supply related decisions. The bedrock of the Supply section is the strength of the Marines who accomplish these missions. SSgt Kelly, our new Warehouse Chief, quickly joined the ranks and with his crew of Cpl Rupcich and LCpl Smith have the mission well in order.

Sgt's Duncan and Pollick for the core of Supply's NCO Leadership and provide the leadership that keeps this MEU rolling.

Our Headquarters Commandant Section of MSgt Loepp and



*S-4 Marines having a good time in Hawaii, with special guest star Capt. Martin.*



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Sgt. Geil are solely responsible for the Basic Marine Corps training of the Command Element as well as the day-to-day berthing maintenance and quality of life concerns for all enlisted personnel aboard the USS Peleliu. A huge task that is tackled with aggressive success by these two quality Marines.

Our Medical Section of HMCS Zuckerman and HM1 Reboya keep the MEU Command Element healthy and prepared to good where the MEU directs us. They have been actively involved in getting everyone their required shots, dental checkups and preventive medicine training. Working well with the Navy Staff, our medical planners are our eyes and ears to Navy medicine.

Our Embarkation Section is SSgt Mendoza and SSgt Rickey and soon to join us Capt Ingram. They have been busy validating the MEU's load plans and preparing the MEU for various offload scenarios. Additionally, the embarkers manage the movement of all personnel, cargo and mail between the ships.

A big welcome to our new EOD Officer WO Stotts. New to the command element structure WO



*Above: Capt. Williams approaches Pearl Harbor, middle: 13th MEU Supply, Bottom: SSgt. Rickey hard at work.*



Stotts provides the MEU Commander expert guidance on all aspects of explosives and explosive devices.

Last but not least are our unsung heroes who are assigned to outside agencies, LCpl Bhatia, one of our motivated supply Marines is assigned to the USS Peleliu Combat Cargo ahs has become expert

at managing movement of personnel and equipment around the ship. We get down to harass him daily just to let him know he still has a home.

Our cooks, Cpl Flores and LCpl Polanko are hard at work providing the very substance that makes all of this possible. 13-14 hour days in a hot kitchen is just a walk in the park for these hard chargers. We greatly appreciate their hard work.

To our love ones at home, keep those cards, letter, and packages coming. Remember that we all are proud to serve, but we miss you dearly and look forward to all of the collective hugs we will receive upon our return.

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## Education Officer

The last six weeks were extremely productive in the 13th MEU (SOC) Deployed Education Program. College classes started twenty four hours after the Fighting 13th deployed from San Diego. Your spouses, sons and daughters are taking a variety of courses being offered through Central Texas College. Some of the classes taught in recent weeks included American History I (Major K. Simon), Biology (Lieutenant Commander B. Smoley), Business (Petty Officer L. Bicking, First Sergeant T. Shatto, Major B. Wolford), College Math (Captain T. Schocken), Communications (Captain W. Pelletier), and State and Federal Government (First Lieutenant T. Puckett).

The 13th MEU (SOC) applied for and received more than \$2 million dollars of tuition assistance on behalf of our Marines and Sailors. The tuition assistance pays for their college credit. However the students, pay a nominal fee to take each class. They are required to pay \$10.00 to borrow the course text book for the term. Sounds pretty easy so far right? Consider this though. First Sergeant Shatto's first class begins at 5 AM Monday through Saturday. Major Wolford's class begins at 8 PM Monday through Saturday. The students are working very hard in the classroom and within their military occupational specialties.

What about some of our students? Our students range in ages from 18 years old to 42 years old.

Take Lance Corporal R. Morin for example, one of our younger Marines, he received straight A's in the three classes he attended during the first semester. "Can't Teach An Old Devil Dog New Tricks?" Tell that to Chief Warrant Officer Mike Bingham, Master Gunnery Sergeant Michael Garrido or Sergeant Major Jeff Morin. Each of these Marines earned straight A's for the first semester as well.

More than half of the 13th MEU (SOC) is taking college classes. Approximately 1,110 students hitting the books on OGDEN, GTOWN and PELELIU. Most of them just completed their first semester of college. You should be proud of them. We are very proud of these young hard chargers for "Getting Their Schooling On!"

## ***STRIKE!***

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## S-6 Communications

We find ourselves looking into a horizon that shows an uncertain future. Understanding that with each passing day our questions are followed on with even deeper wanderings of what lay before us. Starting with a strong foundation of marines that show us individuality, bringing their own experiences, and broadening the range of what can be done.

Having the confidence in one another to accomplish any task assigned with great speed and accuracy. Our path has lead us

through many obstacles, but fused together in times hand nothing will stand in our way.

Welcome to the latest and greatest of the Command Elements S-6 communications section. Marines promoted for the months of August and September, Sgt. Lardge, Sgt Campbell, Sgt. Mesplie with the JTF. Sgt Simmons, Lcpl Rodriguez, Lcpl McDonnell with the Radio tech, and radio sections. Cpl Davis, Cpl Quinto, with the Data Section. Having completed Special Operation's Capable training the 13<sup>th</sup> MEU SOC is moving into a

comfortable rhythm, having the security and peace of mind that sustained training brings. Saying our goodbye's to loved ones and turning our attention to the mission that lay ahead. Looking back now and remembering the sacrifice of time spent away from family and friends. From the newly arrived Marine to those who have seen many deployments in their careers, history will take this journey and create its own story.

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## Public Affairs

One word you won't hear PAO Marines using to describe ship-board life so far is "boring." Between writing stories, shooting photos and executing the duties of the Strike Retail Detachment (selling tactical t-shirts and combat keychains), Sgt. Pascual, Sgt. Ledesma, SSgt. Tuggle and Capt. Pelletier have managed to keep busy. Port visits to Singapore and Hawaii were nice; once the Marines finished covering unit training, community relations projects and VIP events, we were free to enjoy the local sights and activities.

Sgt. Ledesma spends most of his days updating the website; in addition to making sure the Command Element and overall MEU stories and photos are posted, he hooks the BLT and MSSG up by providing web pages for their families to get news and information from the commands. He has faced numerous computer and web problems (to include Hurricane Isabel) fearlessly, and will

probably end up like Michael Bolton from the movie "Office Space:" super-talented, slightly overwrought. Outstanding job, Sgt. Ledesma.

Sgt. Pascual has been a photo-taking fiend these last five weeks; he has taken and posted more than 1,000 pictures since we pushed off from San Diego. When asked if he had anything to add for this column, he replied, "If I have to say 'Say Cheese' one more time, somebody's gonna get hurt." In between shooting photos, Sgt. Pascual is busy designing the MEU's posters, using outstanding shots taken by himself, Sgt. Ledesma, and Cpl. Dan Kelly, S-2 Combat Camera, to visually portray The Fighting 13th. Keep up the good work, Sgt. P.

SSgt. Tuggle continues to be the glue that holds the shop together and has been the driving force behind the Uniting Through Reading Program for MEU Marines aboard Peleliu. She was recognized as one of the MEU Commander's Heroes last week for her efforts. In addition, she helps with the sale of

MEU memorabilia, making sure promotion photos get taken, and doing whatever other tasks need to be done in order to get our Marines' stories told.

Capt. Pelletier has kept busy by broadcasting ESG Updates throughout the ship. These amateurish, low-budget bits of entertainment, consisting of a PowerPoint slide show with voice narration, serve as a vital link to keep the crew informed about what it is the MEU does on a daily basis, or at least that's what they tell him. Thanks to the spouses, girlfriends and children who sent us the Halloween cards, candy and video greetings; it meant a lot to our Marines to get them.

We'll continue to keep you updated on all the great things your Marines and Sailors are doing, and thanks again for your support for us – it's what keeps us going out here.

Semper Fi,  
MEU Public Affairs

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## *Info That's Good To Know*

### MEU Information Hotline

866-676-0662. Once you hear a voice begin the mnu, press 7, then listen for the message from the MEU Commander or the Family Readiness Officer.

### MEU Sergeant Major

morinja@13meu.usmc.mil

### MEU Family Readiness Officer

pelletierwf@13meu.usmc.mil

### 13th MEU Key Volunteers

CloutierMR@pendleton.usmc.mil

In case you forget your KV's information or if you can't get in touch with your KV, e-mail Melanie and she'll get you to the people or resources you need.



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## Force Recon

The platoon departed CONUS on 18 August 03 in advance of the MEU. After a long C-130 flight across the Pacific, the platoon rigged in-flight for a training parachute jump into DZ Kanes. Due to high winds, only one stick was able to exit the aircraft. The rest of the platoon airlanded at Kaneohe Bay.

The following day was spent in preparation for a four day jungle patrol. The platoon inserted via helicopter into the Kahukus training area. After a successful patrol, the platoon extracted and returned to K-Bay. The next four days were spent refreshing our amphibious skills, consisting of two days of long range maritime navigation runs in the waters off K-Bay, a day and a night combat hydrographic survey, and one day of soft duck helicasting from CH-53D's. Two days of closed-circuit oxygen diving followed.

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When the MEU pulled into Pearl Harbor, the platoon enjoyed two fun filled days of liberty on the island of Oahu. GySgt Gruber was promoted to his present rank on board the USS Missouri, the historic site of the formal surrender of Japanese forces at the end of WWII. Gy Gruber's chevrons were pinned on exactly 58 years to the day of the signing of the surrender document.

The platoon re-embarked aboard the USS Peleliu and commenced their journey westward. Upon reaching Singapore, the platoon conducted small arms training at the Singapore Armed Forces training facility. After a short period of liberty, utilizing the four-man liberty buddy policy, the platoon sailed with the rest of the MEU. While underway, the platoon has spent their time polishing maritime warfighting skills aboard several of the ships in the ESG. Hooah.



*MEU Marines and their green thumbs at COMREL event in Hawaii*



*Navy band at Singapore COMREL event*



*Got gas? Peleliu receives 300,000 gallons of fuel from USNS Tippecanoe.*



*SSgt. Lathrop (left) and GySgt. Parra turn Lt. Puckett's butterbars to silver Aug. 28.*

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### **13<sup>th</sup> MEU CE Family Activity Calendar 2003 - 2004**

All events are open to all family and friends of the 13<sup>th</sup> MEU...

Please contact Melanie at 760-430-0645 or email

[RSVPS413thMEU@yahoo.com](mailto:RSVPS413thMEU@yahoo.com)

If you plan on attending any event – at least one week prior to the event –

Thank You...

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>
Oct 5	4 p.m.	Camp Pendleton Bowling Alley Conference Room	*Monthly Madness
Oct 18	2 p.m.	Abbey Reinke Community Center	MEU Halloween Party
Nov 8	6 p.m.	San Onofre Community Center	CE sponsored MC BALL Celebration Event for adults
Nov 16	4 p.m.	Camp Pendleton Bowling Alley Conference Room	*Monthly Madness
Dec 6	2 p.m.	Abbey Reinke Community Center	MEU Holiday Party
Jan	TBA	TBA	BLT sponsored Mess Night, ½ way dinner Event for adults
Jan 11	4 p.m.	Camp Pendleton Bowling Alley Conference Room	*Monthly Madness
Feb 13	TBA	TBA	Valentine Celebration Treat Ourselves Event for adults
Feb 22	4 p.m.	Camp Pendleton Bowling Alley Conference Room	*Monthly Madness
March	TBA	TBA	MSSG sponsored
March 21	4 p.m.	Camp Pendleton Bowling Alley Conference Room	*Monthly Madness
April 3	1 p.m.	San Onofre Community Center	MEU CE Return & Reunion Brief & Party
April 18	4 p.m.	Camp Pendleton Bowling Alley Conference Room	*Monthly Madness
End of April		Various areas depending upon the unit	13 <sup>th</sup> MEU RETURNS!!!

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